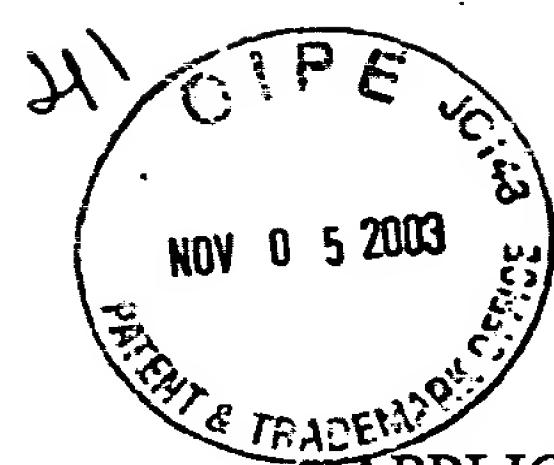


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT(S): Canaani D. et al

EXAMINER: Ponnaluri Padmashri

SERIAL NO.: 09/975,300

GROUP ART UNIT: 1627

FILED: October 12, 2001

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FOR.: GENETIC SCREENING METHODS

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**COMMUNICATION IN RESPONSE TO SEPTEMBER 10, 2003
OFFICE ACTION**

Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This Communication is being filed in response to the Office Action dated September 10, 2003, issued by the United States Patent and Trademark Office in connection with the above-identified Application. A response to the September 10, 2003 Office Action is due October 10, 2003. Applicants are concurrently filing herewith a Petition for a One-Month Extension of Time, in connection with the subject Application. Therefore, a response is now due November 10, 2003. Accordingly, this Communication is being timely filed.